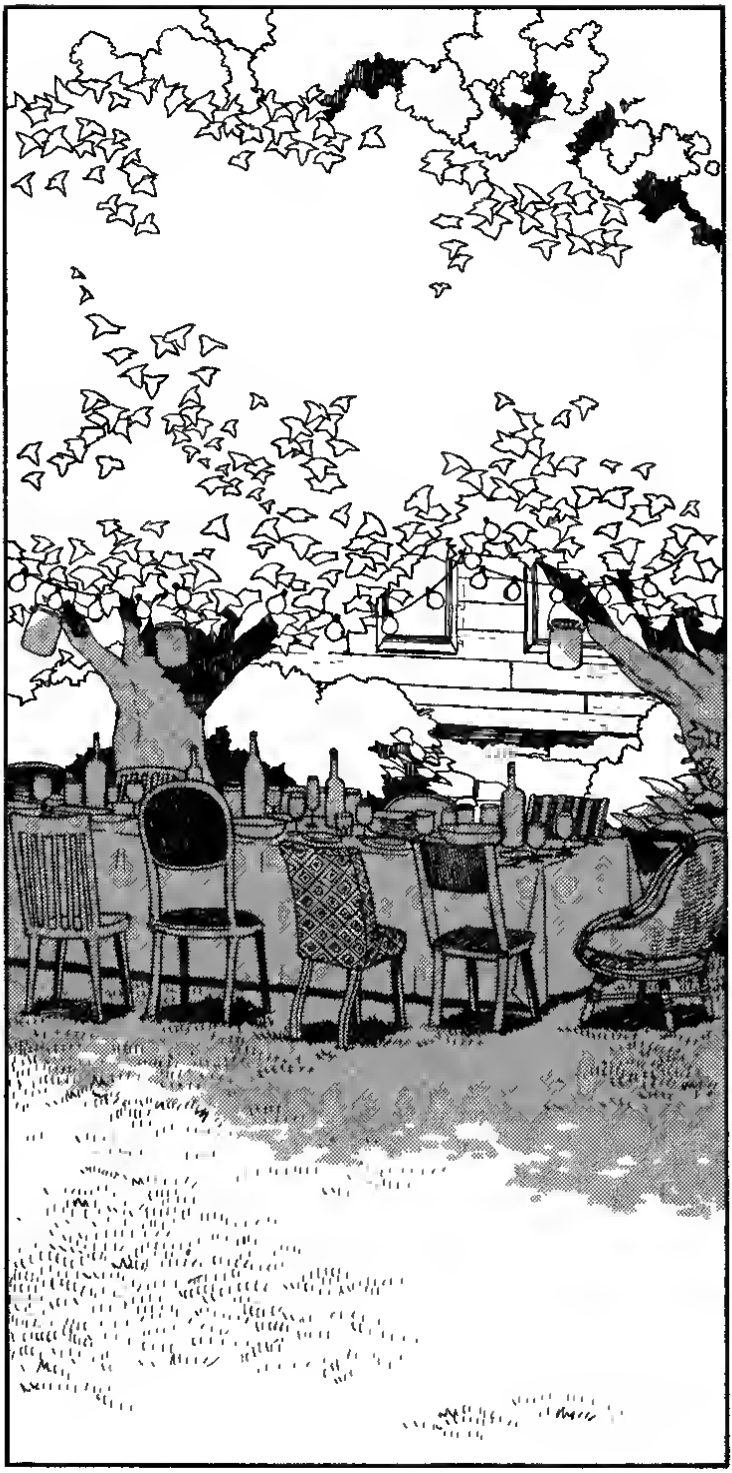
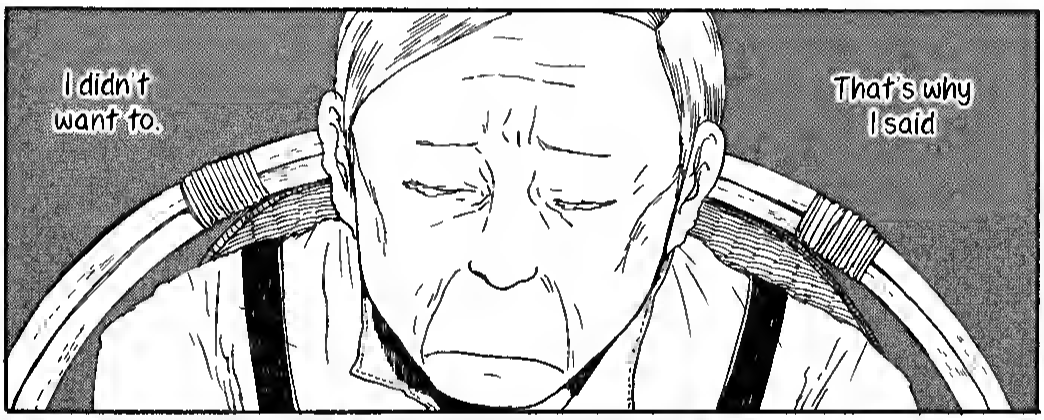
# The Land is a Garden in Your Pocket



GRANDPA IS SLOUCHING AGAIN.
Thanks.
Here are the bowls
OH...
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT.
HE HATES FAMILY GATHERINGS.
AND ON HIS OWN BIRTHDAY! OF COURSE HE'S SULKING.
Ah-ha-ha
I WONDER WHAT'S SO BAD...
WHO KNOWS...? WHY DON'T YOU GO ASK?
You're his favorite
WHAT?! NO WAY!

WHY IS HE SULKING? IS HE EMBARRASSED?
We all made the effort to gather together. Aren't birthday parties usually planned by yourself and you invite others?!
I don't understand it either, Mum.
whisper
WHAT IS WITH THAT ATTITUDE ...?
WAIT, WHAT?
ABOUT DAD?
I WISH HE WAS AT LEAST HAPPY AT MY WEDDING!
Although he really isn't much of a smiley person.
Ahhh I don't like this.
sigh
annoyance
HE WAS LIKE THAT EVEN AT MY WEDDING...
Too bad for everyone else.
WELL, HE IS SITTING PUT FOR US, SO I GUESS THAT'S GOOD.
Mum is so kind! I wouldn't be able to do that.
If you're a coward, you sulk?
THAT MAN IS A BIT OF A COWARD.
See, you have wrinkles in the middle of your forehead!
You'll turn into your father!

I can hear everything.

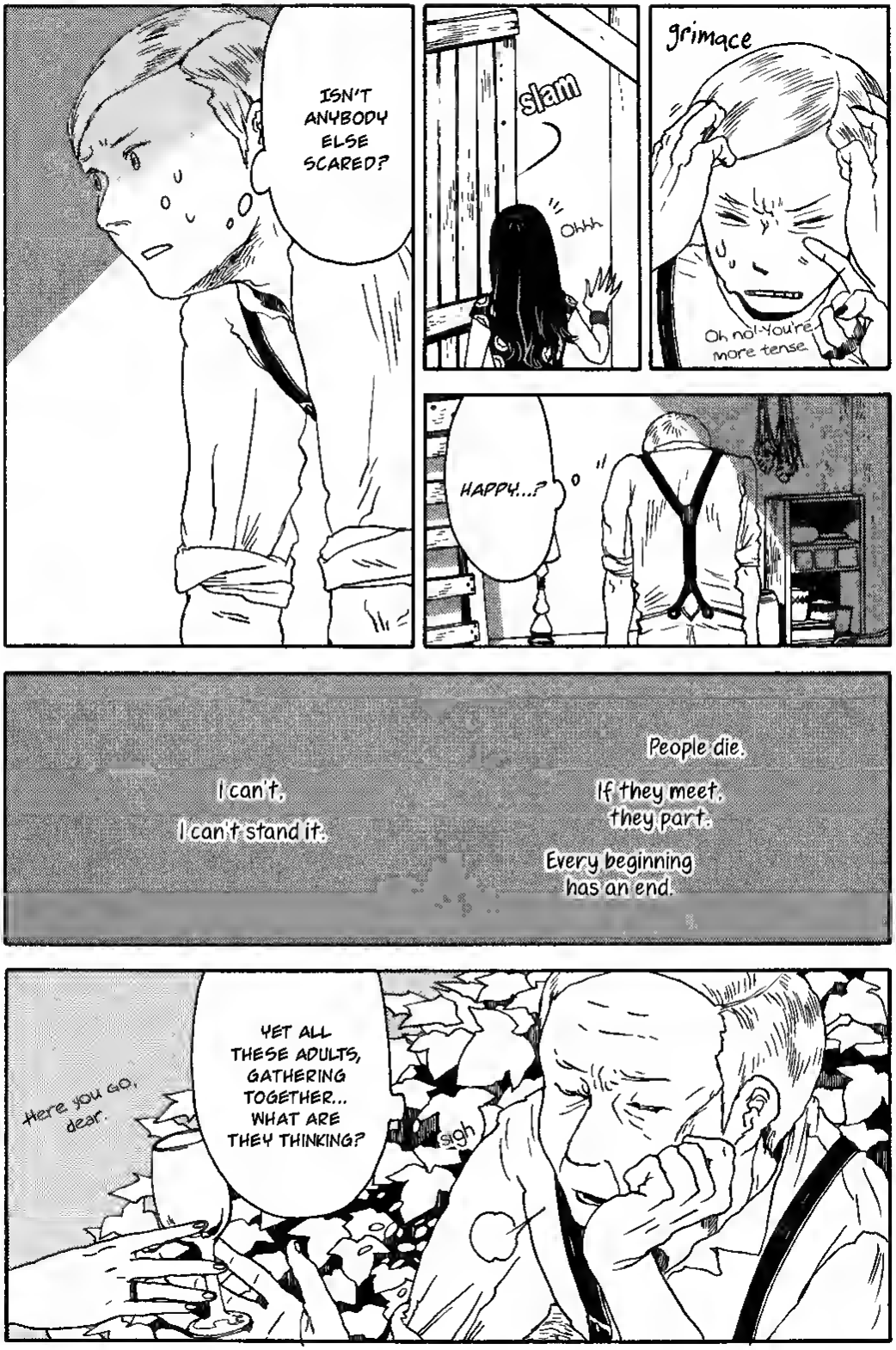

I didn't want to.
That's why I said

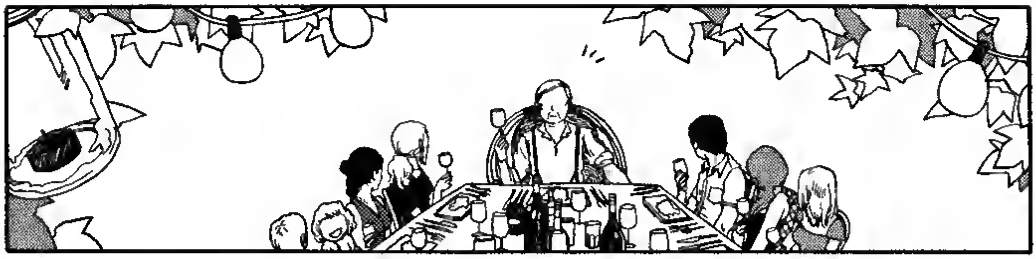
Of course it has nothing to do with being shy.
What?!
I don't want one!
That's impossible! They said it's a good year to have a big celebration..!
No way. Make them stop!
I just told you!
Whaaat?! I wasn't told!!
Oh, right!
The weekend after next,
everyone's coming,
and having a party in the garden for your birthday.

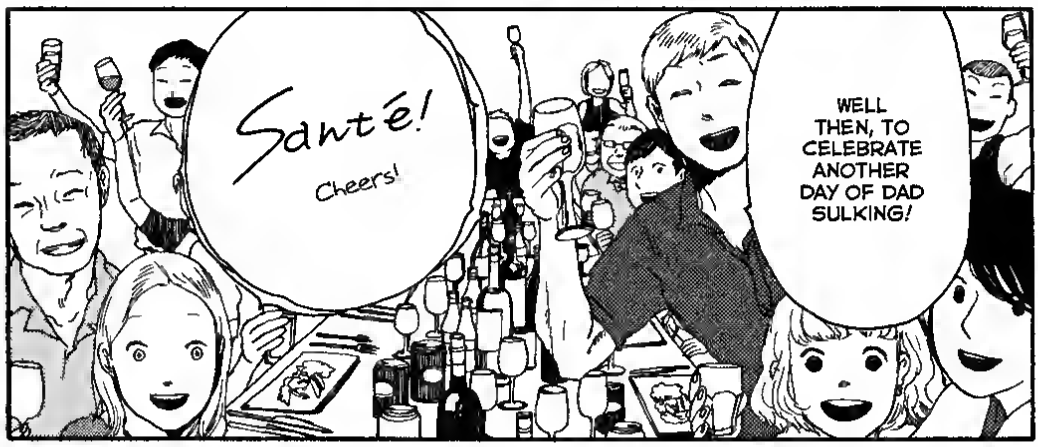
oh!
I ALREADY TOLD YOU ON THE PHONE, BUT
OUR SECOND CHILD IS DUE NEXT MONTH.
Coward, that's right. She understands me too well.
DAD.
We're thinking this one will be a girl!
Even at this age, I still can't get used to it.
TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF! OKAY?!
All right
shiver
Even when Anne told me we were having our first child...

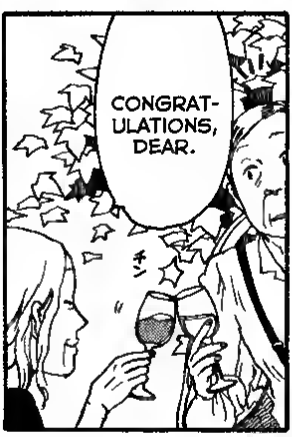
What?!
I KNOW YOU HATE KIDS, BUT...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WHAT?!
How? dinner
dinner
Really?
These things happen...
What? dinner
YOU IDIOT!
It's not like that!
ID-

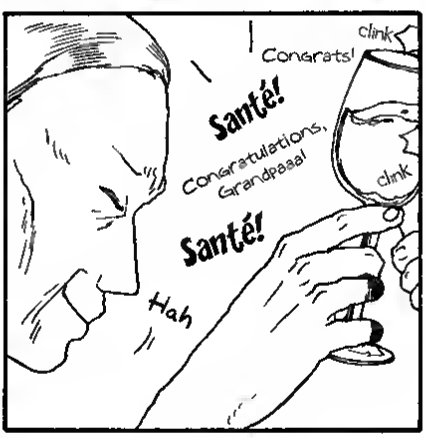
PANIQUE!!!
DON'T YOU KNOW, ONCE IT'S BORN...
IT MEANS THAT O-ONE D-D-DAY IT'LL DIE...?!
W-What should I do?
IDIOT.
Pft
IF YOU'RE HAPPY, WHY DON'T YOU SAY SO?
Loook
The middle of your fore-head is wrinkled!
YOUR DAD IS SO TENDER-HEARTED.
Fu-fu


ISN'T ANYBODY ELSE SCARED?
slam
Ohhh
grimace
Oh no!-You're more tense.
HAPPY...?
I can't.
I can't stand it.
People die.
If they meet, they part.
Every beginning has an end.
YET ALL THESE ADULTS, GATHERING TOGETHER... WHAT ARE THEY THINKING?
sigh
Here you go, dear.




Santé!
Cheers!
WELL THEN, TO CELEBRATE ANOTHER DAY OF DAD SULKING!

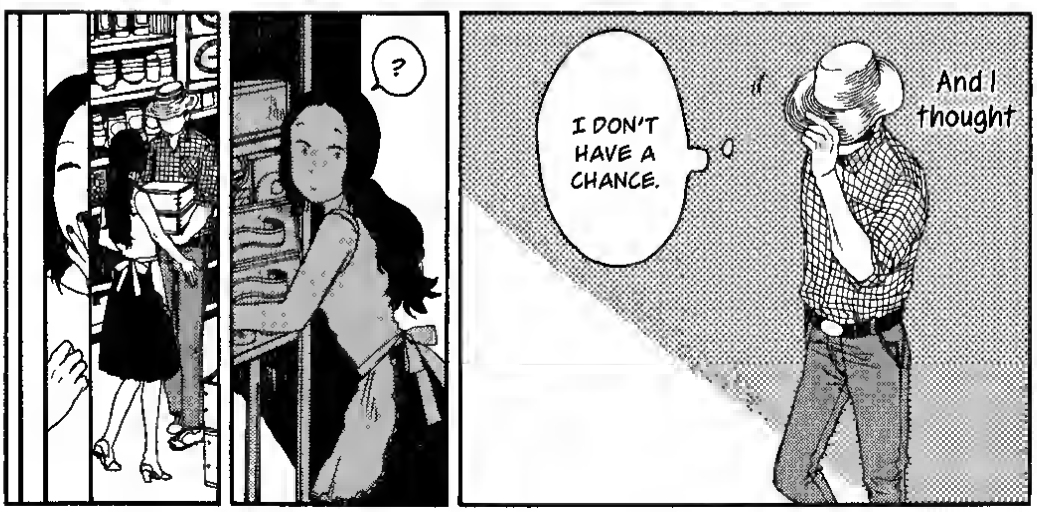

CONGRAT-ULATIONS, DEAR.
チン


clink
Congrats!
Santé!
Congratulations, Grandpaaa!
clink
Santé!
Hah

CAN I HAVE TWO MORE METERS OF HEMP ROPE?
thump
GENERAL
When I met Anne...

ALL RIGHT.
We have it
ANNE!
CHIEN
CHIEN
ungh

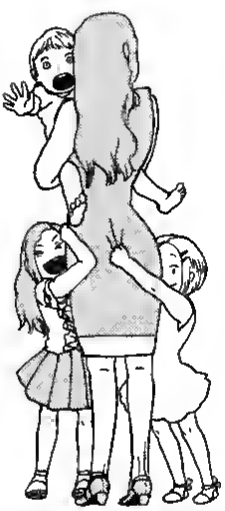
Somewhere deep down inside, I felt like I just gave up.


?
I DON'T HAVE A CHANCE.
And I thought

Forever drawn

like a moth,

to where the fearsome
light shines.

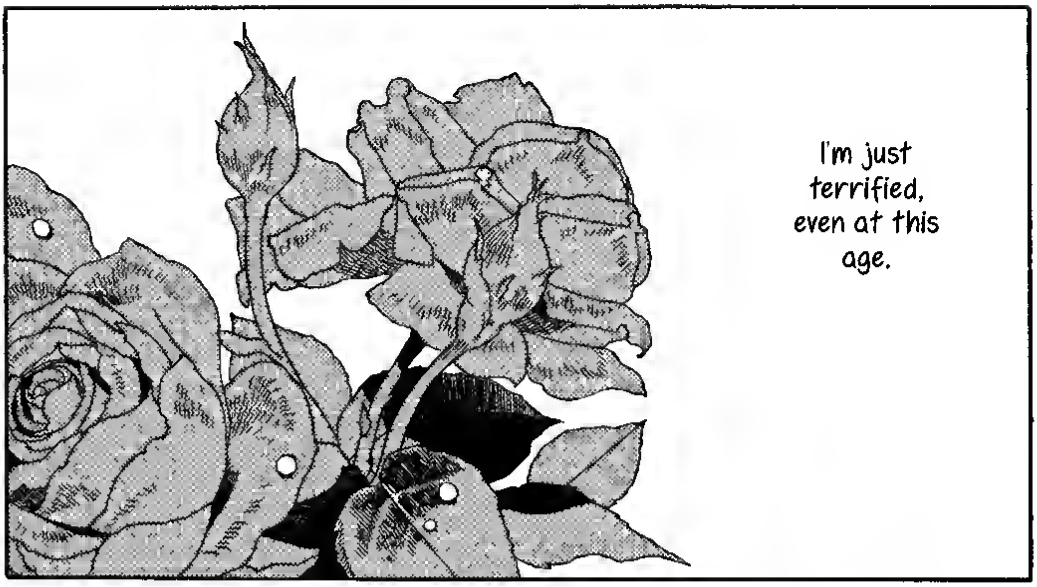


In the end,

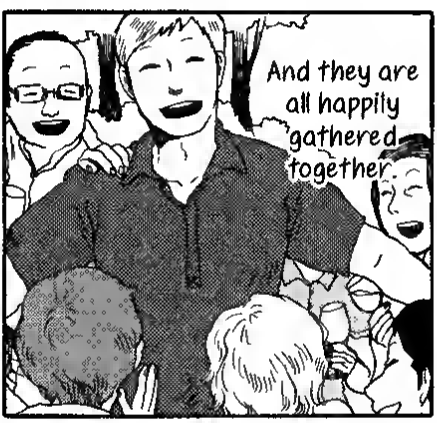
I married Anne.

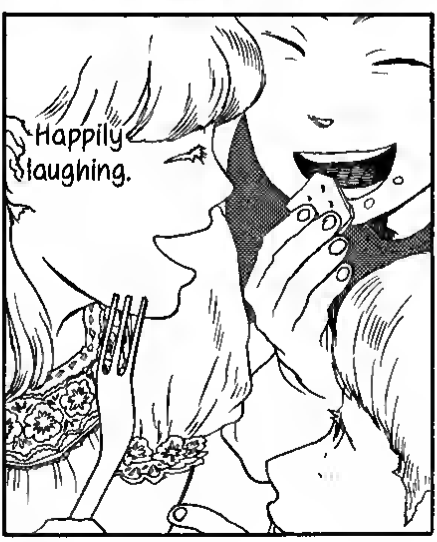
Had three children,

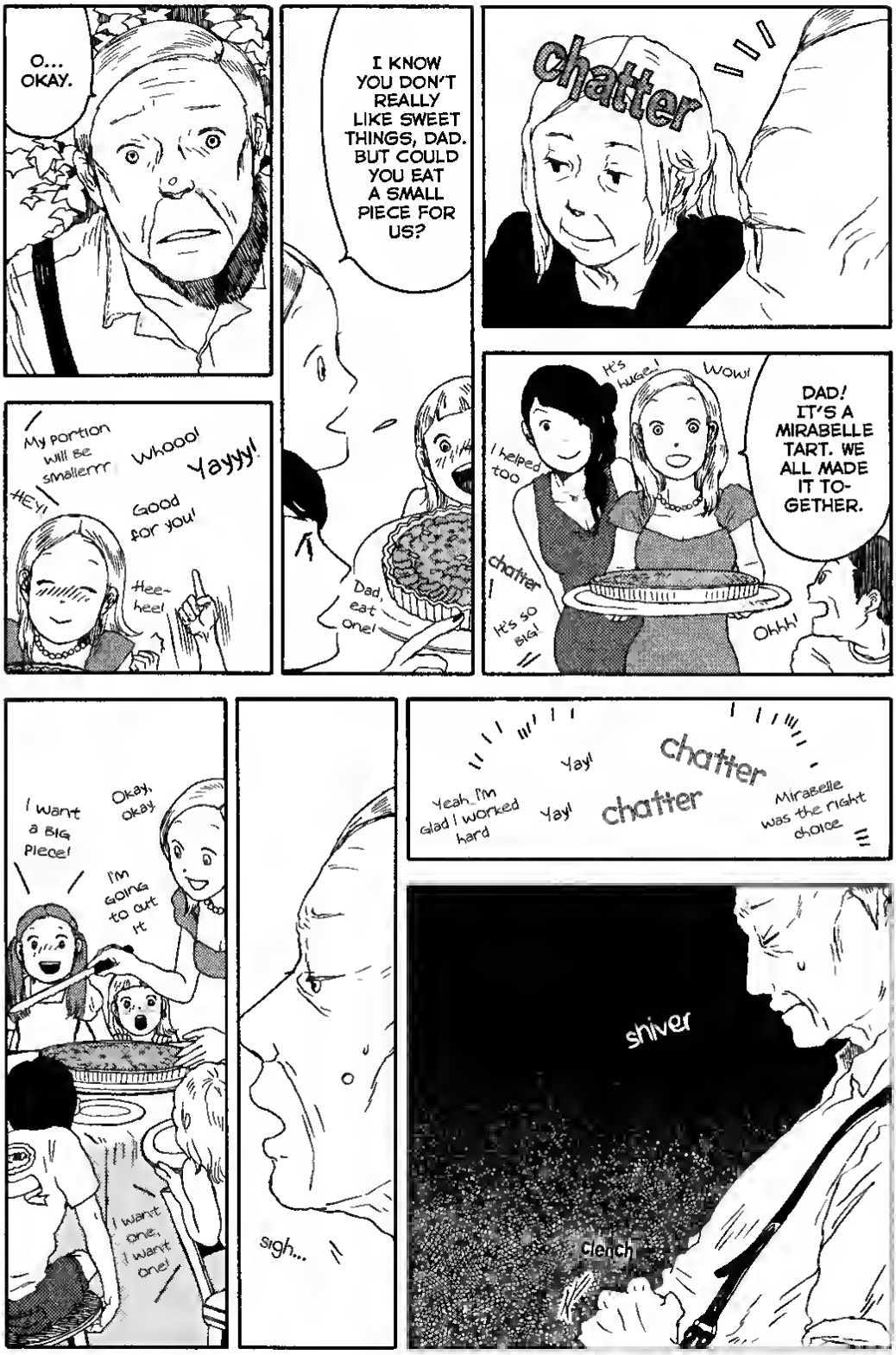
even grandchildren...

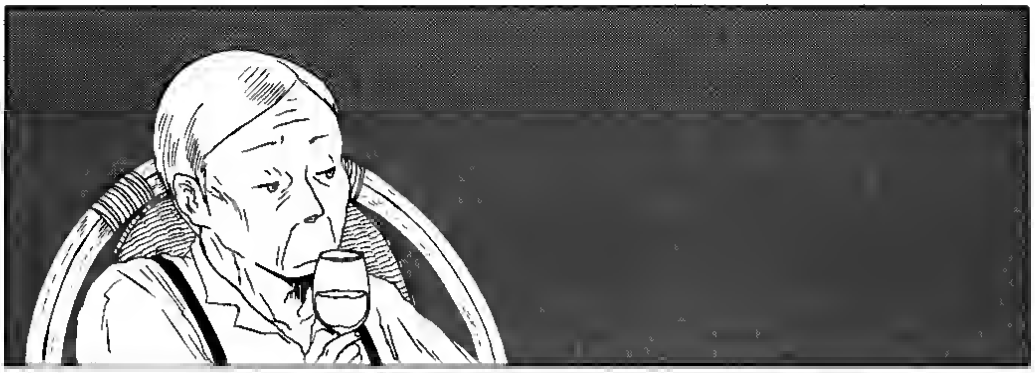

I'm just terrified, even at this age.

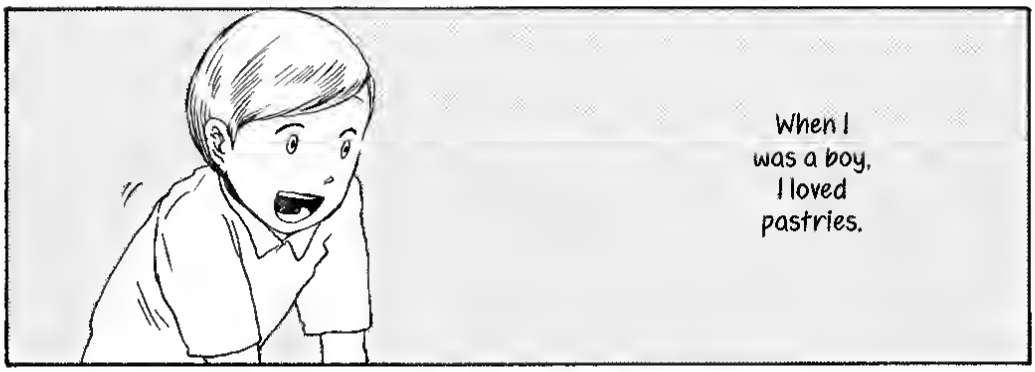
Yet, I'm also truly saved by that...
swirl

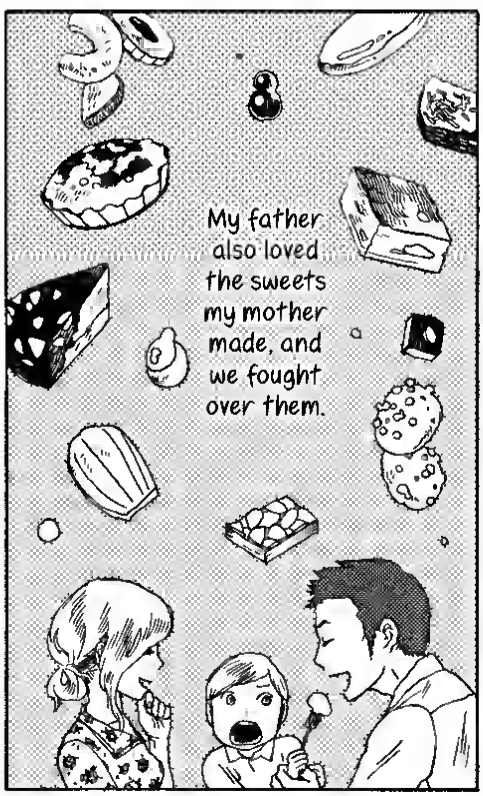

And they are all happily gathered together.


Happily laughing.

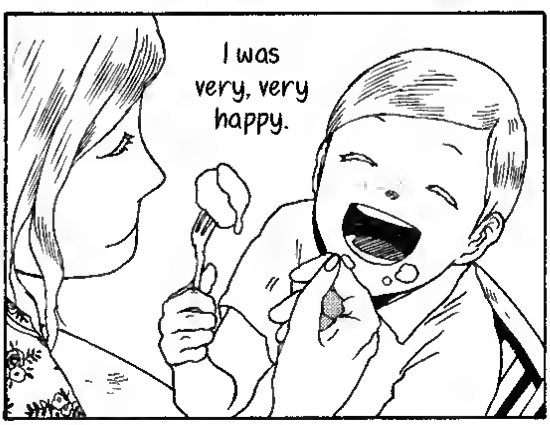

O... OKAY.
I KNOW YOU DON'T REALLY LIKE SWEET THINGS, DAD. BUT COULD YOU EAT A SMALL PIECE FOR US?
chatter
My portion will be smallerrr
Whoo!
Yayyy!
HEY!
Good for you!
Hee-hee!
Dad, eat one!
It's huge!
Wow!
I helped too
DAD! IT'S A MIRABELLE TART. WE ALL MADE IT TO-GETHER.
chatter
It's so big!
Ohhh!
I want a BIG piece!
Okay, okay
I'm going to cut it
I want one, I want one!
sigh...
Yay!
chatter
Yeah, I'm glad I worked hard
Yay!
chatter
Mirabelle was the right choice
shiver
clench



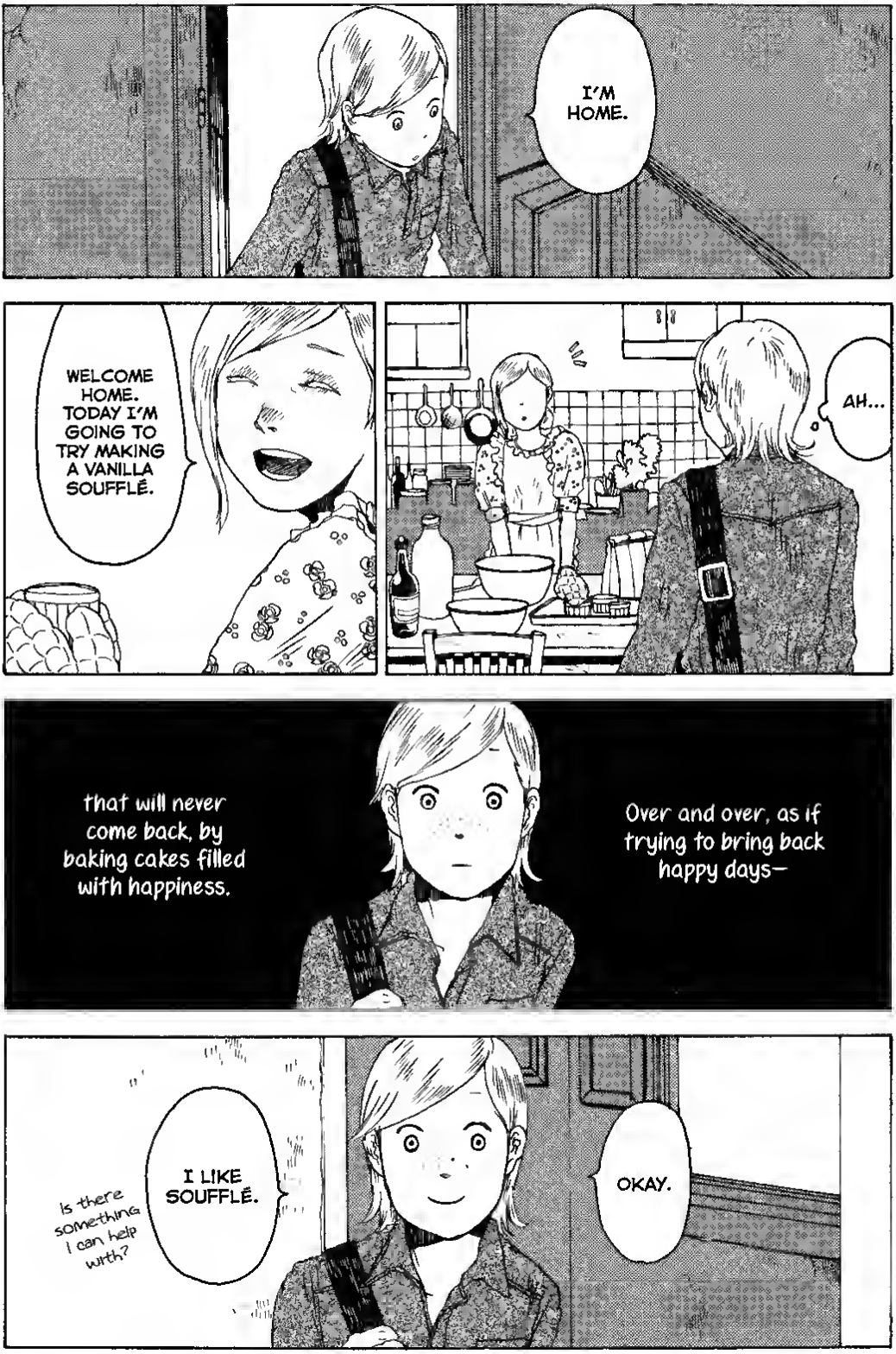

When I was a boy, I loved pastries.


My father also loved the sweets my mother made, and we fought over them.

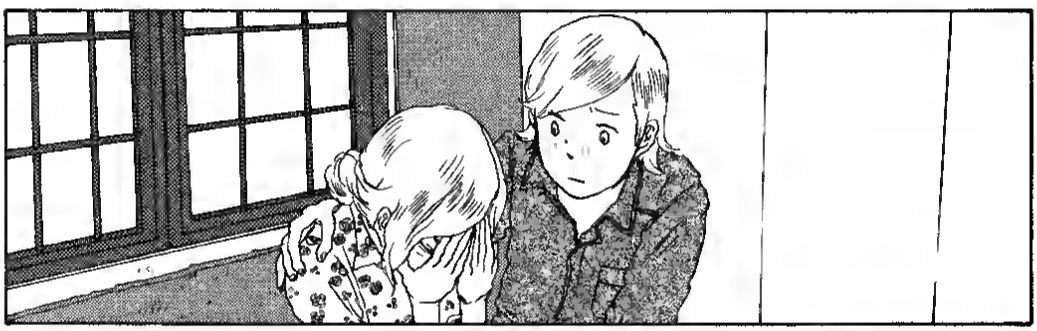
The cakes that sometimes came out...

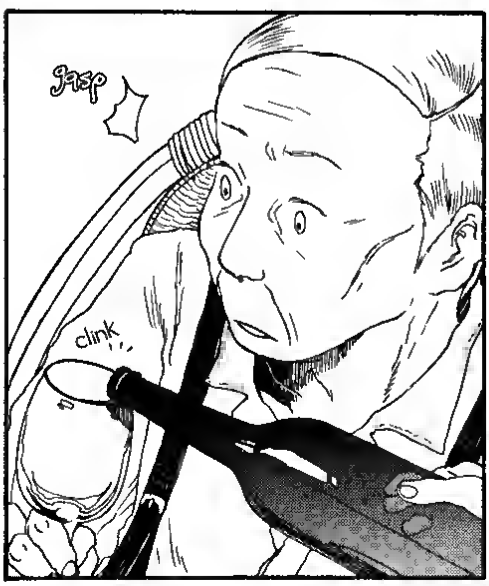

I was very, very happy.

Note: Mirlitans de rouen are small French tarts made with almond cream and tapped with crushed almonds and vanilla powder.


I'M HOME.
WELCOME HOME. TODAY I'M GOING TO TRY MAKING A VANILLA SOUFFLÉ.
AH...
that will never come back, by baking cakes filled with happiness.
Over and over, as if trying to bring back happy days—
Is there something I can help with?
I LIKE SOUFFLÉ.
OKAY.

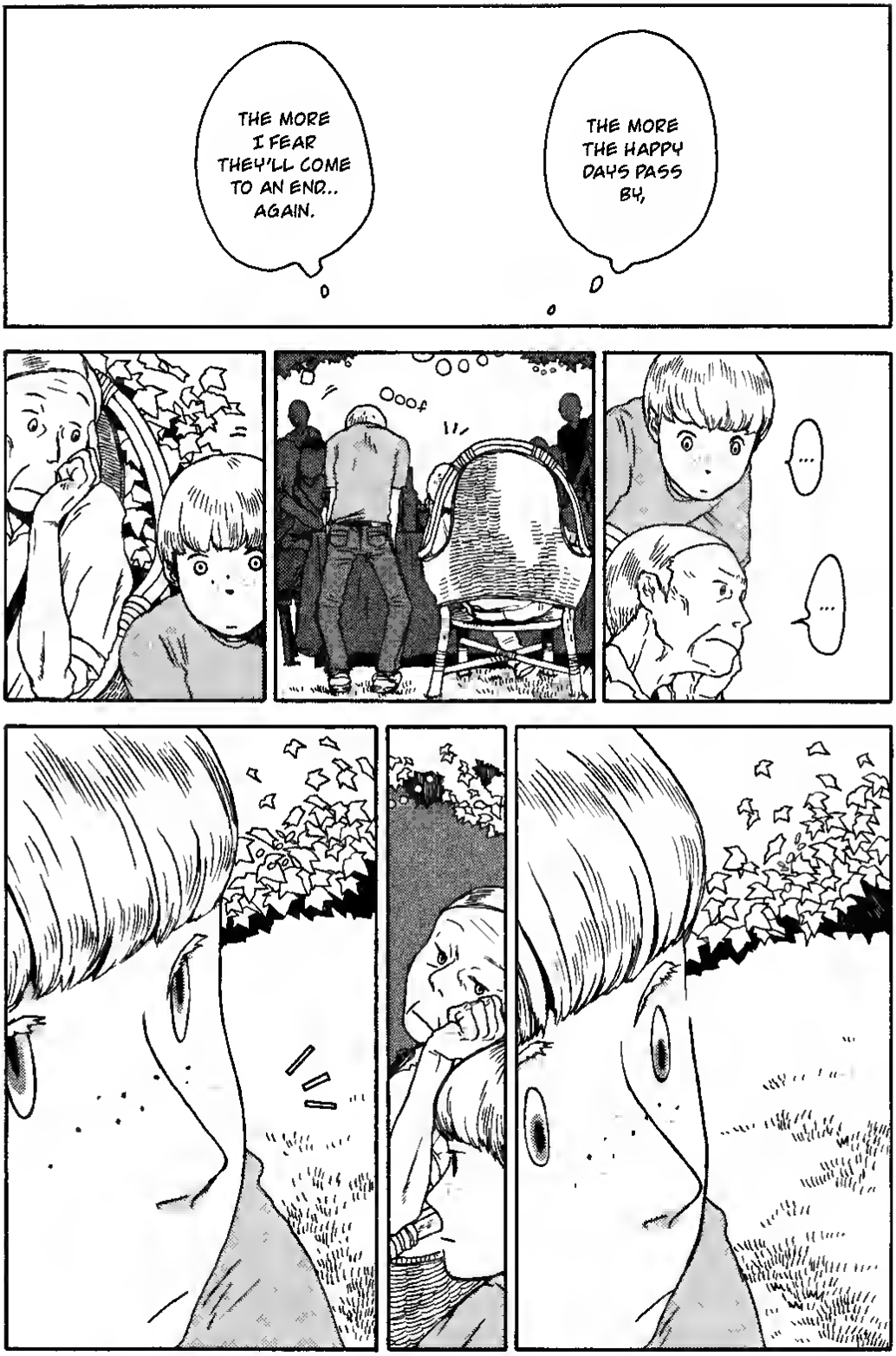
That was
when my father
left for good.

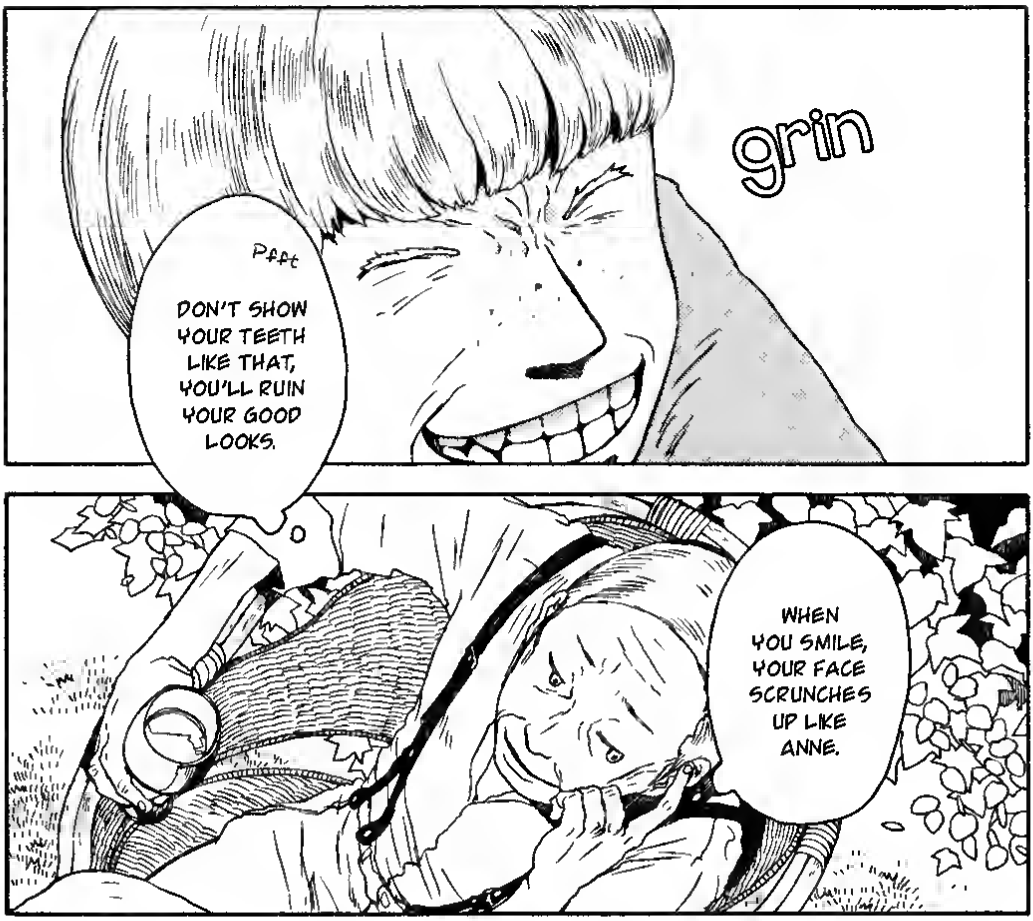



gasp
clink

That's right.
Everything ends.
—— It's so obvious.

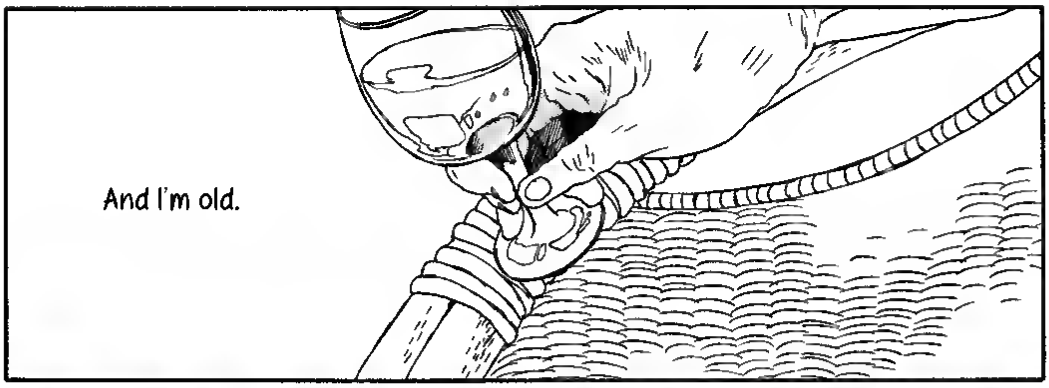
HERE, GRANDPA, SOME WINE...
OH, YES.
Thanks!
chatter
Kya-kyaaa!
Kyaaa!
Stop it!
chatter!
HEY, GRANDPA. WHAT'S SO BAD THAT YOU'RE SULKING ALL THE TIME?
sigh
THEY'RE NOISY AT HOME, TOO.
Ha-ha-ha-ha!
Seriously
EVER SINCE THEY STARTED BALLET, THEY'VE BEEN DANCING NON-STOP.
Kyaaa!
I'VE BEEN SCARED..
EVER SINCE THEN.

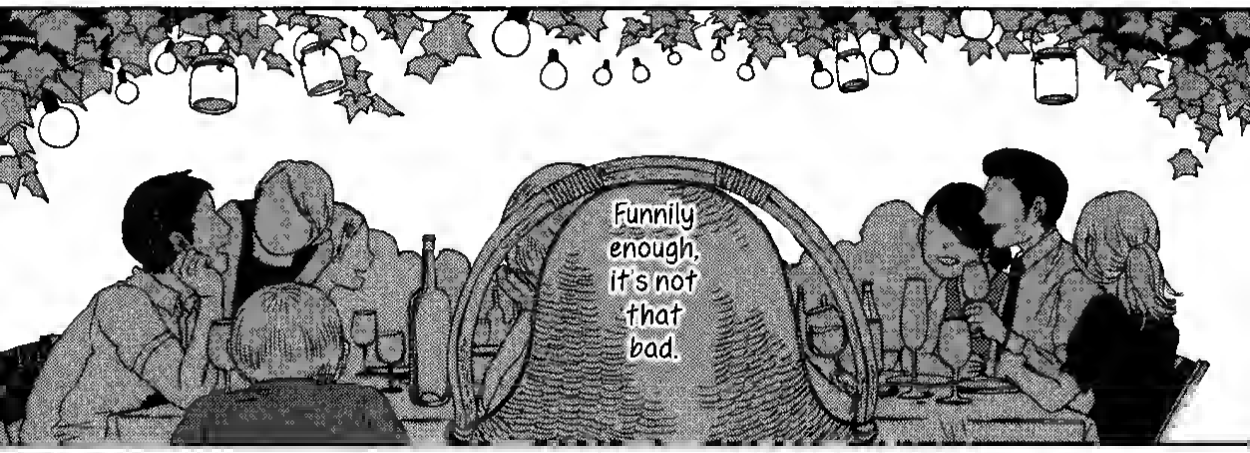

THE MORE I FEAR THEY'LL COME TO AN END... AGAIN.
THE MORE THE HAPPY DAYS PASS BY,
Oooh
...
...

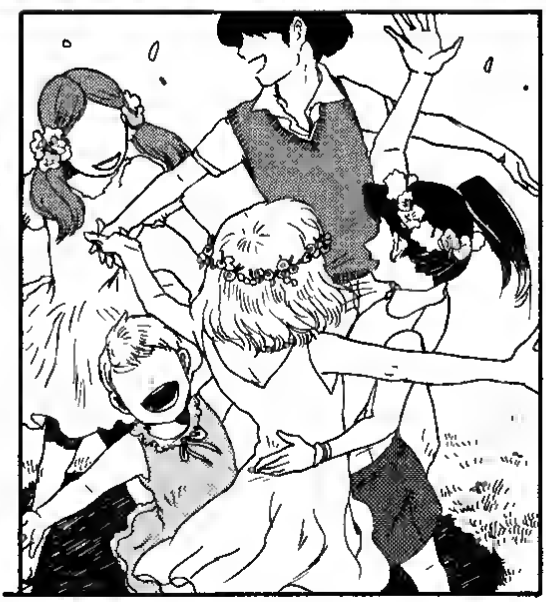

grin
Pfft
DON'T SHOW YOUR TEETH LIKE THAT, YOU'LL RUIN YOUR GOOD LOOKS.
WHEN YOU SMILE, YOUR FACE SCRUNCHES UP LIKE ANNE.

I got the grapes from the top!
Daddy! Daddy!

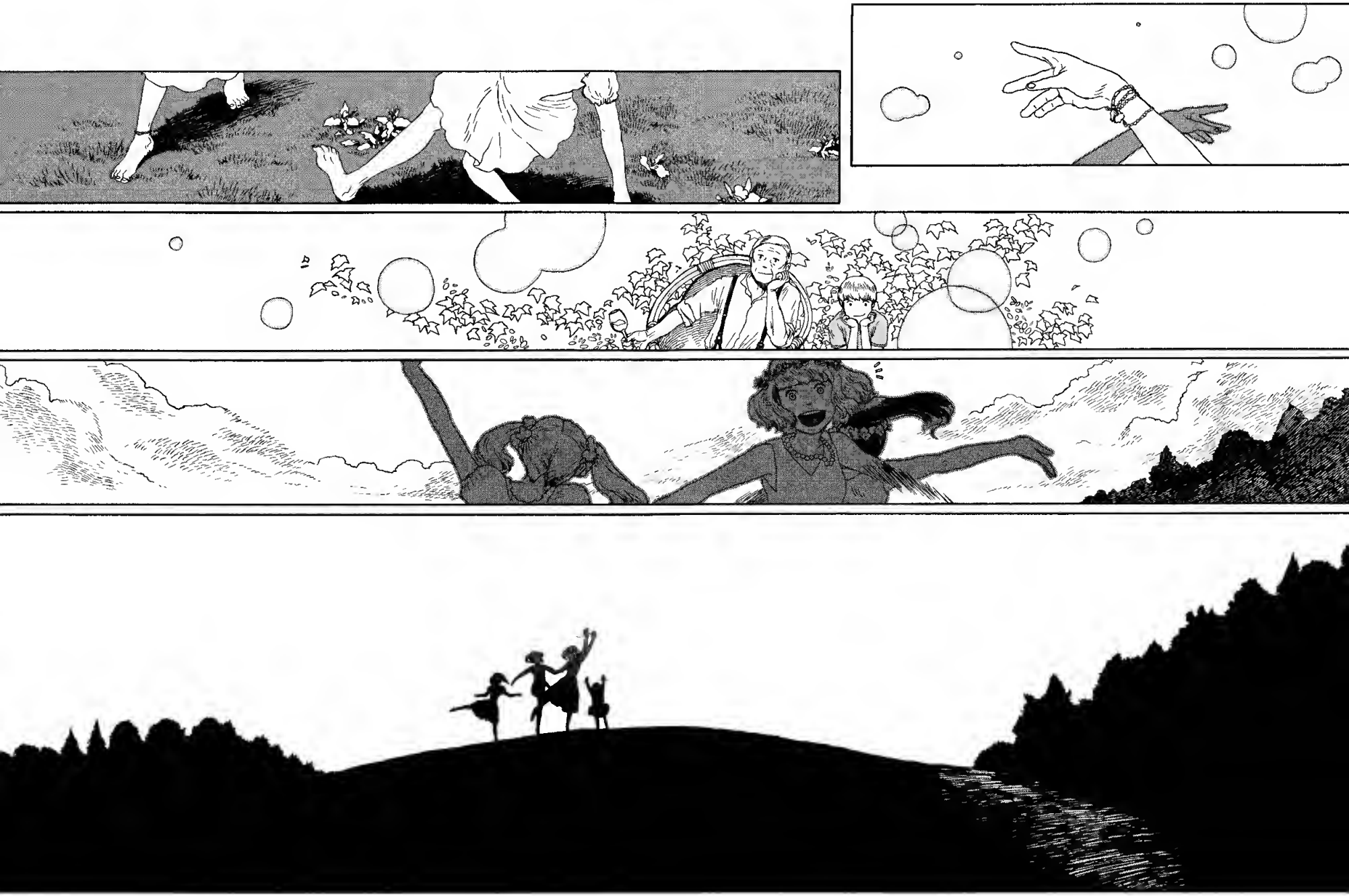
A house and garden that could fit in a pocket.
My children's children.
My wife's children.

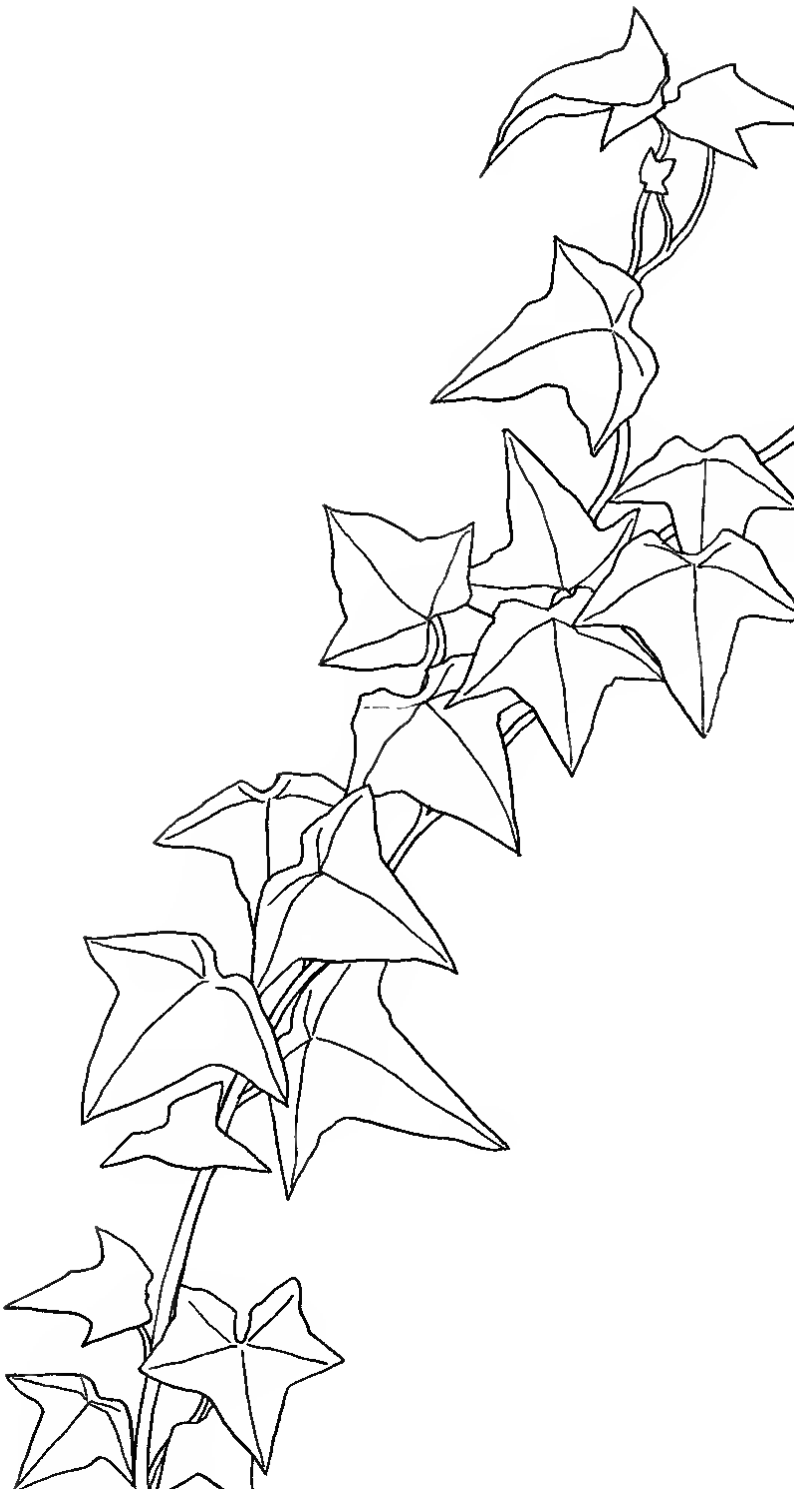

And I'm old.


Funnily enough, it's not that bad.



This moment
doesn't continue
or end.
It's just carved
into eternity.





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# The Land is a Garden in My Pocket

## chapter 3

Raws/Translator Yuuko-san
Proofreader Synonymphony
Editor tolbow
QC blueberry & Yuuko-san

blueberry: I also feel like I should just give up on life.

Yuuko-san: Nooooo !!! I'll save you with a pastry!

blueberry: Okay, I've revived.

# Blue Flor
## needs your help

We are recruiting

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